

OUTGOING MESSAGE

Approved For Release 2003/08/25 : CIA-RDP78S01932A000100200071-8

SIGNAL CENTER USE ONLY

AGE COI ACP TOG TPE MRO TRI

PAGES

SCM 0 0 0 0 0 0

CLASSIFICATION

MESSAGE HANDLING INDICATOR

DATE TIME GROUP

CITE

MESSAGE REFERENCE NUMBER

CIA/UNSS

SOURCE REF

ROUTING

1	4	7	10
2	5	8	11
3	6	9	12

TO: IMMEDIATE WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM FOR MR MCRAVIE

ITEM NO:

WH-78

DATE: 24 JAN 79

SUBJECT:

LIBYAN CONCERN OVER ACTIVITIES OF BEN HALIM

THE LIBYAN GOVERNMENT IS NERVOUS ABOUT REPORTS THAT MUSTAPHA BEN HALIM, A PROMINENT LIBYAN EXILE, MET WITH SECRETARY CHILDS IN WASHINGTON LAST MONTH.

1 BEN HALIM IS ONE OF A FEW LIBYAN FIGURES ASSOCIATED WITH THE

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RELEASING OFFICER

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OUTGOING MESSAGE

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25X1

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LIBYAN MONARCHY WHO HAS MAINTAINED CONSIDERABLE STATURE IN THE ARAB WORLD. HE SERVED AS KING IDRIS' PRIME MINISTER IN THE MID-1950'S, AND DESPITE HIS LONG EXILE HAS CONTINUED TO KEEP UP CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS WITH MODERATE ARAB LEADERS. PARTICULARLY KING SAUD. BEN HALIM MANAGED TO LEAVE LIBYA WITH SOME OF HIS CONSIDERABLE PERSONAL WEALTH JUST PRIOR TO THE 1969 COUP, AND SINCE THEN, HE HAS LIVED IN GENEVE AND LONDON AS A PRIVATE BUSINESSMAN. THE LIBYAN GOVERNMENT HAS TRIED ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS TO FORCE HALIM BACK INTO LIBYA IN ORDER TO TRY HIM ON CORRUPTION CHARGES LEVELLED AGAINST ALMOST ALL FORMER OFFICIALS OF THE MONARCHY.

THE BELIEF THAT HALIM HAS BEEN IN TOUCH WITH WASHINGTON ALMOST CERTAINLY HAS REINFORCED QADHAFI'S FEARS THAT THE US IS PLANNING SOME ACTION AGAINST HIS REGIME. OVER THE LAST SEVERAL MONTHS, THE LIBYAN LEADER HAS AMPLY DEMONSTRATED THAT HE SERIOUSLY BELIEVES PRESS STOREYS ABOUT US PREPARATIONS FOR A FORCEFUL TAKE-OVER OF ARAB OILFIELDS. IN SUCH A HIGHLY CHARGED ATMOSPHERE, QADHAFI IS LIKELY TO INTERPRET ALMOST ANY ACTION BY THE US AS POTENTIALLY THREATENING. E-2 IMPDET.H

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